

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Representatives Jesse Kremer, Romaine Quinn and Cody Horlacher

DATE: Tuesday, December 1

RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB-3817/1, relating to expenditures associated with the operation of a rail fixed guideway transportation system in a first class city.

SHORT DEADLINE: Thursday, December 3 at 12:00 p.m.

A "rail fixed guideway transportation system" is defined as a public transportation system designed to operate upon a fixed guideway (railway) that is not regulated by the federal railroad administration. In the 2015-2017 budget, the transit safety oversight program was created (stat. 85.066) to prevent a county containing a 1st class city from incurring any expenses associated with the operation of a rail fixed guideway transportation system unless the county would be fully reimbursed by the city.

The purpose of this bill is to protect state taxpayers and our state transportation fund from any operational costs of a Milwaukee streetcar system. If this issue is not addressed, the potential exists that some of the operational costs would be funded by state tax dollars. This would have a detrimental effect on all statewide mass transit systems, especially for taxpayers who do not reside in Milwaukee.

Under this bill:

1. Section 85.066 (3) would be expanded to include the entire state of Wisconsin, not just counties with 1st class cities.
2. Money provided for urban, mass transit, operating assistance program aids may not be used for the operation of a 1st class city rail fixed guideway transportation system.
3. The portion of statute 85.062 that provides state expenditures for any project resulting from the Milwaukee Downtown Transit Connector Study will be deleted.

To be added on as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please reply to this email by **Thursday, December 3**. Please call the office at 6-9175 with any questions.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill limits the state's authority to incur expenses and expend moneys for a rail fixed guideway transportation system in the city of Milwaukee.

Under current law, a "rail fixed guideway transportation system" is a public transportation system being designed, engineered, constructed, or operated that is intended to operate upon a fixed guideway and that is not subject to regulation by the Federal Railroad Administration. Under current law, a county containing a first class city, currently only Milwaukee County, may

not incur any expenses relating to the operation of a rail fixed guideway transportation system in the first class city, currently only the city of Milwaukee, unless the expense incurred will be fully reimbursed by the first class city. Under this bill, the state and its agencies are also prohibited from incurring these expenses.

This bill also removes the enumeration of any project resulting from the Milwaukee Downtown Transit Connector Study of the Wisconsin Center District from the list of major transit capital improvement projects eligible for construction and specifies that money provided for urban mass transit operating assistance program aids may not be used for any purpose relating to the operation of a rail fixed guideway transportation system in a first class city.